

**Vermont Alcohol and Drug Abuse
Advisory Council**

Department of Liquor Control
13 Green Mountain Drive
Montpelier, Vermont

Wednesday, December 4th, 2013
10:00AM – 12:00PM

I. Welcome and Introductions

Welcome

Welcome everyone

Introductions

Mitch Barron
Lauren Fisk
Rebecca Fenn
Joy Mitchell
Patrick Martin
Rita Johnson
Lori Augustyniak
John Gramuglia
Mark Weikert
Mark Depman
Andy Snyder
Barbara Cimaglio

Regrets

Marcus Hass
Greg Nagurney
Jennifer Wall-Howard
Chauncey Liese
Marcia LaPlante
Steve Waldo
Matthew Birmingham
Willa Farrell
Mourning Fox
Mike Hogan
Mark Ames

II. Approval of Minutes: October 23rd, 2013

October 23rd – Approved with the following changes:

Member Reports/Announcements:

Mitch Barron: Mitch has not yet met with Win Turner although they have discussed the opportunity to meet.

Lori Augustyniak: The bill issued by Senator Jeanette White is about taxation and regulation of marijuana, and not necessarily about legalization of marijuana.

Joy Mitchell: Joy's name was listed in this section however she did not make any announcements.

Governors Highway Safety Program:

DWI terminology is used throughout this section, discussed whether or not there is a distinction between DUI and DWI. VT DMV codes reference DWI defined as driving while under the influence of intoxicating liquor, criminal. A change in terminology will be made in this section, if appropriate.

III. Mitch Barron – Preparation for Secretary Racine

The first half of the meeting was spent coming up with a list of items to discuss with Secretary Racine. Items to discuss include:

- Agency approach to mitigating harm (prevention) in conjunction with the decriminalization of marijuana
- Taxation of marijuana and how those revenues will be used
- Agency perspective on how to rebuild coalitions in VT as they have faded
- 2014 Budget update
- The possibility of using a "litmus" test on all health related policies coming before the legislature? How does policy help? How does policy impact the wellbeing of Vermonters?
- Increase publication of gambling help line and website with the increase in gambling venues in the state
- Define responsibility of Council. How can this council help advise the Secretary? With that there was a discussion around whether or not our council should transfer the focus from Drug and Alcohol to Health and Wellness. The overall idea is that the focus is on Health and Wellness however the title Drug and Alcohol carries more weight. Also discussed methods of informing the Secretary of what the council is doing on an ongoing basis (more than just passing along meeting minutes i.e. position letter or publication of some kind).
- Further service integration (co-occurring) and value/power of support services in terms of treating the whole person. This council represents a continuum of care; success is contingent on that continuum. What is the secretary's perspective on how all elements of that system of care will be maintained?

- YBRS update
- Can data from the prescription monitoring system be used to identify trends in terms of individual providers or provider types (i.e. orthopedists) that overprescribe controlled substances? In addition, it would be interesting to see if there are certain demographics where controlled substances are prescribed over other demographics (i.e. rural vs. urban areas).

IV. Update from Secretary Doug Racine

Update from the Secretary: It is evident that substance abuse disorders are apparent in those the Agency of Human Services serves. There is also a very loosely defined system of care within AHS. The Secretary has been working with Barbara to define that system of care across the agency (i.e. using common assessments, forms, and terminology across service areas.) There is a group that has been working on this.

The secretary defined four basic needs that people need in order to be successful:

1. **Stability in housing:** there is a unified approach to address housing needs
2. **Employment:** at whatever level they are capable. Creative Work Force Solutions is working across the agency to make sure job service programs are coordinated.
3. **Continued Assistance:** I.e. ongoing substance abuse treatment and/or mental health treatment etc.
4. **Connections with the Community**

Great progress has been made since the last meeting Doug attended. An example of that progress is the Hub and Spoke initiative that incorporates more intensive treatment for people addicted to opioids. Treatment focuses on the underlying issues in addition to treating the symptoms. There are a number of other initiatives also in place to help prevent people from going straight into the criminal justice system (Tom Dalton and T.J. Donovan both have initiatives). More dollars have been requested for Recovery Centers (\$175,000 for the remainder of his Fiscal year and \$350,000 for next fiscal year). Preliminary results of the YBRS show youth behavior moving in a positive direction in terms of smoking, marijuana use, alcohol use and binge drinking etc. AHS is also trying to address underlying causes of poverty in the Reach Up population (1/3 of which self-identify substance abuse problems).

Q&A:

1. Changing Marijuana Laws – health risks, and youth use risks have been significant. What are thoughts around how these risks will be addressed? Our society is moving towards legalization of marijuana but at the same time prevention is being cut. What will be done about prevention in light of making substances more available? If marijuana were to be legalized, would a portion of tax revenue go towards prevention?
 - a. The Secretary thinks that the Governor's position is to try to move away from viewing marijuana use as a criminal act. In doing so, children who are experiencing problems with marijuana and get caught will not suffer from the long term effects (and stigma associated with) having a criminal record. The focus on marijuana use is possibly distracting us from looking at serious alcohol use, heroin use, and other drugs. It might make more sense to regulate marijuana as we do alcohol and seeing it as a choice that adults can make.

- b. The Governor is not moving towards legalization of marijuana but decriminalization.
2. How can this council be helpful to you? We are an advisory council; in what sense are we giving advice? How can we better advise you?
 - a. It is a great opportunity to consult with this council around upcoming issues. The council can also be effective with actually going before legislators and making recommendations.
 - b. The secretary will work with Barbara to make sure items make it to the council for review and recommendation.
 - c. Barbara will bring a budget cross walk to the council for review. The crosswalk will show where money is currently being spent.
 - d. Next year the Secretary will be invited to attend the council meeting in September during budget negotiations instead of in December after negotiations.
 3. The number of homeless students is increasing. Poverty can lead to substance abuse, crime, unemployment and lack of education. How will poverty be addressed in an era of considerable cuts to public assistance (section 8, fuel assistance, nutrition assistance etc.)?
 - a. What is happening on a national level is the opposite of what we want to see in Vermont. The middle class is declining; there is an increase in poverty and homelessness, coupled with federal funding cuts. AHS is trying to backfill funding with limited resources. What we have to do is figure out a way to do things more efficiently with no additional resources and this is something the council can help with.

V. Member Reports/Announcements

John Gramuglia, DOC –The University of Cincinnati developed a risk assessment tool which is being used to determine the efficacy of DOC programming. This baseline data served as starting point. DOC has begun a transition to evidence based programming (which should make DOC programming more effective).

Lori Augustyniak –. The young adult advisory team does not exist any longer. ADAP has asked Prevention Works to think about that segment of the population and come up with an outreach plan. The plan has been developed and Prevention Works will be hiring an intern to help conduct that outreach. In addition, there is an advocacy plan being developed that focuses on building relationships. The *Elephant in the Living Room Report* is also being reviewed (this was developed in 2001 when the legislature commissioned a study on substance abuse in VT). This will be used as a tool to check outcomes with the legislature now, ten years later.

Rita Johnson – Friends of Recovery is hiring an “Information Services Coordinator” who would run the clearing house program, update websites, and training/event planning etc. (Rita will send job description to council members) Referrals welcome! In addition, Recovery Day is planned for March 21st. There will be a separate Mental Health Advocacy Day.

VI. Future Guests

JoEllen Tarallo Falk – Suicide Prevention U Matter
 Patty Baroudi – College Initiative
 Charlie Biss – Children’s Mental Health
 Karen Gennette – Drug Court (update on DWI Court)

Rebecca Holcomb – Secretary of the Agency of Education
Shayla Livingston – YRBS

NEXT MEETING: January 22nd – Invite Shayla Livingston to discuss YRBS results